Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 09510 261156Z

61
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

SAB-01 SAJ-01 /085 W
---------- 084788
R 261059Z JUL 75
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5494
INFO DIA WASHDC
CIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 9510

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, LE, IS
SUBJECT: REACTION TO CLASHES NEAR SOUTHERN BORDER

REF: (A) USDAO BEIRUT 475; (B) USDAO BEIRUT 484

1. THE LEBANESE REACTION TO THE RECENT CLASHES AT KFAR KELA AND AIN EBEL (REFTELS) IS PRIMARILY ONE OF PRIDE THAT THE ARMED GROUPS IN THE KFAR KELA AREA REPORTEDLY STOOD AND FOUGHT THE ISRAELIS, MIXED WITH ANGER AT THE LOSSES. THE LOSSES AT AIN EBEL ARE PARTICULARLY MOURNED BECAUSE SOME OF THE WOUNDED ARE REPORTEDLY FROM THE FAMILY OF LEBANON'S MARONITE PATRIARCH. THE BEIRUT PRESS HAS GIVEN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 09510 261156Z

WIDE COVERAGE TO THIS FAMILY CONNECTION AMONG THE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

CASUALTIES. (THERE IS, OF COURSE, NO MENTION IN
THE PRESS OF THE POSSIBILITY MENTIONED IN REF B
THAT LEBANESE ARTILLERY SHORT ROUNDS DID THE DAMAGE
AT AIN EBEL.)

2. WIDE PRESS PLAY HAS ALSO BEEN GIVEN TO
THE GOL'S DECISION TO ORDER ITS AMBASSADOR AT THE
UN IN NY TO CIRCULATE AN OFFICIAL COMPLAINT,
ADDRESSED TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL, ABOUT THE
CLASHES AT KFARKELA AND AIN EBEL. WE UNDERSTAND
THAT THE GOL HAS INSTRUCTED THE AMBASSADOR TO
CONFINE THE PROTEST TO THIS COMPLAINT AND TO
REFRAIN FROM SEEKING A MEETING OF THE SECURITY
COUNCIL. THIS CONFORMS TO RECENT LEBANESE
PRACTICE ON SIMILAR CASES.

3. FROM THE STANDPOINT OF INTERNAL LEBANESE
POLITICS, THE MOST STRIKING DEVELOPMENT ARISING FROM
THESE INCIDENTS IS THE SUDDEN PUBLIC APPEARANCE
OF A COMMUNIST GROUP CALLED THE "POPULAR GUARD." A SPOKESMAN
FOR THIS ORGANIZATION, WEARING DARK GLASSES AND A
KAYIFFEH COVERING MOST OF HIS FACE, HELD A PRESS
CONFERENCE AT THE OFFICES OF THE PALESTINE NEWS
AGENCY (WAFA) ON JULY 24. GEORGE HAWI, THE HEAD
OF THE LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY, WAS AT THE CONFER-
ENCE. THE WAFA CONNECTION WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY THE
PRESENCE OF ZAID ABDUL FATTAH, THE WAFA EDITOR. THE
"POPULAR GUARD" SPOKESMAN, WHO GAVE THE NAME ABU
OMAR, TOLD REPORTERS THAT HIS ORGANIZATION HAD BEEN
ESTABLISHED BY THE LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY IN SOUTH
LEBANON IN JANUARY 1970 TO RESIST ISRAELI AGGRESSION.
HE CLAIMED THAT HIS GROUP PARTICIPATED IN THE KFAR
KELA BATTLE ALONG WITH OTHER "PROGRESSIVE" PARTIES.
HE DISPLAYED A NUMBER OF EXPLOSIVES WITH HEBREW
MARKINGS. HE THEN MADE CERTAIN "DEMANDS",
PURPORTEDLY ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH LEBANON.
AMONG THESE WAS A DEMAND THAT CITIZENS BE ARMED IN
DEFENSE OF THEIR HOMES. HE ALSO INSISTED THAT HELP
AND FACILITIES BE GIVEN TO HIS ORGANIZATION AND OTHER
"PROGRESSIVE" MOVEMENTS.
CONFIDENTIAL

4. REACTION IN THE LEBANESE PRESS FOLLOWING
THIS PRESS CONFERENCE WAS SPLIT ALONG PREDICTABLE
LINES. "AMAL", THE PHALANGIST PAPER, ACCUSED THE
"POPULAR GUARD" OF WISHING TO STEAL THE ROLE THAT
THE LEBANESE ARMY AND THE PEOPLE OF THE SOUTH HAD
PLAYED IN FIGHTING THE ISRAELIS. (REPORTEDLY THE
ARMY WAS INVOLVED AT SOME STAGE OF THE CLASH AT

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

KFAR KELA, BUT IT IS APPARENTLY TRUE THAT OTHER GROUPS INCLUDING POSSIBLY THIS COMMUNIST ORGANIZATION TOOK AN ACTIVE PART.) THE COMMUNIST DAILY "AN NIDA" PUBLISHED JULY 25 THE 1970 DECISION OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY THAT ALLEGEDLY CREATED THIS GROUP. THIS TEXT SPEAKS NOTABLY OF THE "INCREASED SCOPE OF THE REPEATED ISRAELI AGGRESSIONS" AND "THE APATHY AND ABSENTEEISM OF THE STATE." THE DOCUEMENT ALSO EXPLICITLY TIES COMMUNIST PRINCIPLES TO THE MOVEMENTS AGAINST "ZIONISM AND IMPERIALISM."

5. KAMAL JUMBLATT, JUST BACK FROM A TRIP TO NORTH AFRICA, JOINED THE LEFTIST ATTEMPT TO MONOPOLIZE CREDIT FOR THE KFAR KELA OUTCOME IN A PRESS CONFERENCE OF HIS OWN ON JULY 24. HE PAID TRIBUTE TO THE KFAR KEAL FIGHTERS AND URGED SOUTHERN VILLAGERS TO ARM THEMSELVES "BECAUSE THE STATE'S WEAPON IS BEING USED TO STRIKE THE PALESTINIANS, THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT, AND THE MOSLEMS".

6. COMMENT: WE ARE SKEPTICAL THAT THIS COMMUNIST GROUP WAS FORMED AS EARLY AS 1970, ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NO CONFIRMATION EITHER WAY. THE ABOVE QUOTES FROM "AN NIDA" HAVE A CONTEMPORARY RING TO THEM. WE JUDGE THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE TRYING TO ESTABLISH FORMAL ATNECEDENTS WHICH DO NOT EXIST. IT IS TRUE, HOWEVER, THAT THEY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED FOR SOME TIME IN ARMING ELEMENTS IN THE SOUTH.
GODLEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, BORDER INCIDENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BEIRUT09510
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750258-0558
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750717/aaaaapfh.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <22 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION TO CLASHES NEAR SOUTHERN BORDER
TAGS: PFOR, LE, IS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006